

Developmental Disabilities Services
State Program Standing Committee
January 16, 2014
Waterbury Congregational Church

Meeting commenced: 9:30am

Members Attended: Emily Anderson, Anne Bakeman, Max Barrows, Linda Berger, Julie Cunningham, Bethany Drum, Nicole LeBlanc, Greg Mairs, Kyle Moriarty, Edwin Place, Connie Woodberry, and Susan Yuan

Members Absent: Joe Greenwald, Barbara Prine, Theresa Wood

Guests and Staff: Rich Atkinson, June Bascom, Karen Connor, Camille George, Chris O'Neill, Lisa Martel, Jennie Masterson, Betty Milizia, Kirsten Murphy, Tina Royer, Trisha Russell, Karen Schwartz, Kay Stambler, Jennifer Stratton, Marlys Waller, Karen Wynkoop

Meeting Minutes: The December meeting minutes were reviewed. Bethany Drum made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Anne Bakeman seconded the motion. Motion to accept minutes was approved.

OPG Update: Camille gave an update on OPG staffing. As previously announced, the position for a public guardian in St. Albans has been approved, and filled. Jackie Rogers will provide further details. Jon Hommiller has announced his retirement, and his position has been upgraded to a Supervisor position and recruitment will begin soon

Updates:

Self Determination Alliance: Camille thanked Betty Milizia for all the work she has done regarding the SDA. Betty provided a brief overview on the status of the SDA. The SDA is charged with advising the AHS Secretary on matters related to collective bargaining for independent direct support providers (IDSP) and generally on how to support this workforce. A special meeting has been called to vote on the recommendations. This meeting is being held on January 28th, 9am – 10am at 208 Hurricane Lane, Williston, Conference Room B. The person who receives services is in the driver's seat. The SDA would like to see IDSP to have access to health insurance, and to know about the direct care worker registry and how to use it. The SDA is also interested in supporting IDSP to move up the career ladder and supporting training. The SDA wants to make sure that they as employers have flexibility about wages and other matters since they know best what it takes to provide care to the individual. The SDA will need to talk more about it's role in monitoring progress once a contract is in place and the impact that the contract will have on programs and systems. Betty took questions regarding the purpose and function.

DDS Rescission: The rescission document was distributed and discussed. This document is also posted on line. Camille thanked June Bascom for all the work she put into this. Camille also thanked the consumers, families and providers for their work in making decisions within the agencies and individual plans as part of the rescission. The report tells you what is provided, along with the instructions that went to the agencies. The reason for the rescission: the 2013 budget included a 2.5 million savings target. The legislature asked to convene a group to find a way to provide services and achieve the savings target. The summer legislative workgroup provided ideas to help achieve this goal. It was agreed that three of the ideas were worth looking into further. The ideas are not expected to impact FY14. Each agency was given a proportional amount towards the savings target. 19% of all people receiving services were affected by this. The greatest affected area was home support at 31%. Community Supports next largest are 18% and employment at 10%. 298 workers were affected –

unclear if these workers were in positions or they were open positions. June took questions from the committee on the affected workers. Camille asked for feedback from the agency reps: Jennifer Stratton, Greg Mairs, and Julie Cunningham. Comments continued after the re-designation report was given. It was asked that a letter be written on behalf of the SPSC that they do not agree with the DS HCBS Reduction Summary. They would like a copy of the letter to go the Governor, Camille, and the Secretary of Administration. Anne Bakeman made a motion to write a letter and send it to Camille. The motion was 2nd by Max Barrows. The motion passed to write the letter. Connie Woodbury asked to work on the letter with Julie Cunningham.

FY15 Budget: The Governor presented the FY15 budget on January. 15th. Commissioner Wehry will testify on the budget on February 7th. There are no cuts in existing AHS programs. A DS caseload increase has been provided for. Commissioner Wehry would be happy to come to the February meeting if the committee would like.

Re-Designation for Lamoille County Mental Health: The re-designation report was reviewed, and questions were answered by Jennifer Stratton. Voting was done by the members. Eleven members voted to re-designate, and one member voted to re-designate with a minor.

Miscellaneous:

- Camille reminded everyone that the link to SOCP survey has been sent out. All were encouraged to forward the link on to as many people as possible.
- Camille asked the committee if the current meeting space worked (Waterbury Congregational Church) for everyone. DAIL will continue to seek out accessible, affordable and comfortable meeting spaces.
- Max Barrows brought up issue regarding private guardians. Developmental Home providers – contact is very isolated as most don't have land lines. Also they don't have cell phones, and they are having a hard time contacting their providers.
- Susan Yuan – new Medicaid rules require person centered planning to be done independently.
- Any updates on the DOL rule around home providers? Work continues at both the State and Federal levels and there is some optimism that all/many of Vermont's concerns will be addressed.

Adjourned: 12:15pm.